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July Precipitation Over the Great Lakes

As a percentage of the long-term July average:

Great Lakes Basin 51%

Lake Erie (including Lake St. Clair) 42%

Lake Superior 68%

Lakes Michigan-Huron 45%

Lake Ontario 42%

Note: These figures are preliminary.

July Outflows From

Volume 9, Number 8 **August 8, 2001**

Lake Superior Levels Expected to Peak Soon

Three Public Events Scheduled During September

Lake Superior rose by about half its usual amount from June to July. If average weather prevails, Lake Superior will peak for the year sometime in August or September and then begin its annual seasonal decline.

Declining water levels during July on the other Great Lakes - Michigan-Huron, Erie and Ontario - suggest that water levels on these lakes have peaked for the year. Assuming average water supplies, the seasonal decline in water levels should continue over the next few months.

Montréal Harbour's monthly mean water level was 5.40 m in July. This was 1.15 m below the 1967-2000 average value for the month of July, and it is also a new record low for the month. Levels are expected to remain well below average in August.

On July 26th all gates at the Iroquois Dam were raised to their normal fully-open position as the risk of very high Lake St. Lawrence water levels had diminished. With two of the gates raised well above the water line, some recreational boaters transit the St. Lawrence River at Iroquois by passing through these two gates at the dam instead of using the Iroquois Lock.

Lake Ontario Outflow Activity

The recent heat-wave over northeastern United States and southern Ontario led to a huge demand for electricity. To increase the hydropower generation at the Moses-Saunders power plants in the St. Lawrence River, the International St. Lawrence River Board of Control authorized increases in Lake Ontario outflows on six occasions (July 24th and 25th and August 1st, 2nd, 7th and 8th). During parts of July and early August, the Board also authorized outflows more than specified by the regulation plan to prevent excessively low water levels on Lake St. Louis and in the Montréal region of the St. Lawrence River. These flow increases drew from the water the Board had previously conserved on Lake Ontario. In early August, there remained about 5.3 cm of conserved water on Lake Ontario.

In light of the continuing dry situation in the Montreal region of the St.

the Great Lakes

As a percentage of the long-term July average:

Lake Superior 97%

Lake Erie 87%

Lake Huron 83%

Lake Ontario 85%

Note: These figures are preliminary.

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Summary information for "LEVEL*news*"

Lawrence River, the Lake Ontario outflow for the rest of the summer is expected to be slightly more than specified by the regulation plan.

Upcoming Public Events

The International Lake Ontario - St. Lawrence River Study Board will be holding its first annual public meeting on September 13th, 2001, at the Delta Centre-Ville Hotel in Montréal, Quebec from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. The meeting will coincide with the International Joint Commission's Public Forum on Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Water Quality, being held on September 14th and 15th at the same location. The Study invites you to take part in both events. For more information about the IJC's Public Forum, please visit www.ijc.org and click on "Montréal Public Forum"

The Study's public meeting agenda is being finalized as this newsletter goes to press. To obtain your copy of the agenda, visit the Study's web site at www.losl.org and click on "Upcoming Events" or contact Amanda Morelli by phone at (613) 992-5727.

The International Niagara Board of Control will hold an open house during the evening of September 19, 2001 at the Holiday Inn Fort Erie - Convention Centre, 1485 Garrison Rd., Fort Erie, Ontario. The open house is scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m.

The International Niagara Board of Control is a bi-national organization reporting to and advising the IJC on matters regarding water levels, flows and similar subjects pertaining to the Niagara River. The purpose of this open house is to inform the public of the Board's current activities and to hear public comments and suggestions regarding the Board's work. In addition, information will be presented on Great Lakes water levels. If you require additional information, please contact Len Falkiner at: 905-336-4947.

Flow Measurements at Sault St. Marie

From July 25th until July 31st the International Lake Superior Board of Control carried out flow measurements at the Compensating Works in the St. Marys River. The measurements took place with gate open settings from their usual setting equivalent to 1/2 gate open to as much as four gates fully open. The purpose flow measurements is to develop a more accurate method of continuously recording the flows through the structure for different gate open settings. The Lake Superior outflows for the rest of the summer are expected to be as specified by the regulation plan.

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